

August 3, 2004

The Honorable Trent Blankenship, Wyoming State Superintendent
The Honorable April Brimmer-Kunz, President of the Senate
The Honorable Fred Parady, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Grant Larson, Wyoming State Senator
The Honorable Hank Coe, Wyoming State Sentaor
The Honorable Irene Devin, Wyoming State Senator
The Honorable John Hines, Wyoming State Senator
The Honorable John Schiffer, Wyoming State Senator
The Honorable Randall Luthi, Wyoming State Representative
The Honorable Pete Anderson, Wyoming State Representative
The Honorable Mike Baker, Wyoming State Representative
The Honorable Pete Illoway, Wyoming State Representative
The Honorable Philip Nicholas, Wyoming State Representative
The Honorable Colin Simpson, Wyoming State Representative
The Honorable Jeff Wasserburger, Wyoming State Representative

Re: Proposed Community Facility Program

Dear Mr. Superintendent, Senators, and Representatives:

Over the course of the last few years, the traditional role of schools as community centers, especially in our smaller communities, has been highlighted by virtue of the State response to the Supreme Court school capital construction cases. Now that schools are being built by the State, they are not necessarily being built to also serve as centers for community activities. The school building's role as community center is not a constitutional requirement, but neither the need for community facilities nor the lack of local taxing authority can be ignored. Rather than attempt to force a one-size fits all solution through the School Facilities Commission, I have proposed that this problem be addressed through separate community facilities funding under the State Loan and Investment Board. The Superintendent and I recently discussed the possibility of creating a program that could assist communities with funding for multi-use facilities, and do so without using school foundation or school facilities streams of funding.

As most of you know, this is a concept that I have discussed with School District Superintendents over the last couple of months. In addition, during the recent special session, one of my staff testified before the Select Committee on School Facilities regarding this idea. I

have heard that all of you would like to be further briefed on the concept in a conference call scheduled later this week. The involvement of all who are interested is welcomed.

The Honorable Trent Blankenship
Wyoming Superintendent of Schools

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An outline we have developed of one conceptual approach to such a new program is attached for your use. This outline sets out proposed parameters and goals of a new program. Of course, if this concept goes forward in the legislature, these sideboards may change somewhat. Nonetheless, I thought you might find it of some assistance to know how the concept has been initially proposed.

As it seems the time is right for this discussion to go forward a little more actively, I will be releasing the outline to the press today.

Sincerely,

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

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